Message from the Legislative Council *Re*: Bills granted to.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I report to the House that a message has been received from the Legislative Council that the Mysore Board of Revenue Bill, 1955, and the Mysore (Religious and Chairtable) Inams Abolition Bill, 1955, passed by the Assembly during the current Session and transmitted to the Council have been agreed to without any amendments.

BUDGET FOR 1955-56.

Demands for grants.

DEMAND No. 35
EXTRAORDINARY CHARGES.

63. EXTRAORDINARY CHARGES.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Demands Nos. 35, 38, 42 and 44. I will move Demand No. 35.

Motion Moved :—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,55,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1956, in respect of 'Extraordinary Charges'."

*Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR (T.-Narasipur).—I oppose the Demand. Much water has already flown under the bridge since the question of the checking of the fall in agricultural produce was raised. I do not dwell on that aspect in detail at this stage because the Hon'ble the Minister for Finance has also made mention of it in his budget speech and we have also put several questions and I do not want to take much time of this House. The Government has agreed to take such measures as are necessary to control the fall in prices. The Bombay Government has already taken measures to check the fall in prices. The Government of Mysore have not yet undertaken any of those steps. I urge upon the Government of Mysore to take at least now some steps which would ensure the agriculturists a fair price for their products. In my recent tour in my constituency during the recess, I noticed there is much hardship caused to the agriculturists on account of the serious drop in prices. There is absolutely no market at all as all the goods remain unsold and even the very little amount of money they wanted in connection with the expenditure for the festival could not be got by the sale of their agricultural produce. So there is a lot of slump.

Sri K. HANUMANTHAIYA (Chief Minister).—What was the ruling rate ?

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR.—For paddy the ruling rate was from Rs. 18 to 22. The usual measure in our parts was 5½ seers. It would work out on an average to 110 seers per palla, *i.e.*, 20 measures, each measure containing about 5½ seers ; that would be treated as a palla in our parts. The rate that was prevailing there was between Rs. 18 and 22. Rs. 22 for Coimbatore Sanna and Rs. 18 for coarse variety. Last year, the Government had fixed the rate at Rs. 22. That had a very good effect and at no time was the produce sold below that rate. The maximum rate touched last year for paddy was Rs. 28 in September—October. For Jola, the farmer used to get a price of about Rs. 35 last year. Now jola is being sold at about Rs. 18 or between Rs. 18 and Rs. 20 and even then there are no buyers. As regards Ragi, we have very little stock of it in our area. With regard to silk, there is serious drop. Charka silk is not finding a market and even if it finds market, it is being sold at Rs. 22-23 per pound. Almost all the products remain unsold with the agriculturist and there is a lot of slump. It is very necessary that the Government should take steps to restore confidence in the minds of the public.

Secondly, as regards this Demand, I wanted to place before the Government that in food audit, several lakhs of rupees are involved. From 1942 to 1954 the food audit contains a number of observations and it also suggested a number of lapses, involving a large amount and I am told many times there have been references to waivers, to waive a particular claim. If it is allowed to pass on like that for some